

Mayor Coleman and SWACO Partner to Advance Get Green Columbus Campaign Schwarzwalder Selected to Promote Environmental Stewardship

(Columbus) Mayor Michael B. Coleman today announced an expansion of the partnership with the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) that will advance the Mayor's plan to improve environmental stewardship while encouraging the development of green buildings and jobs in Columbus. The newly created team will be funded in partnership between SWACO and the City of Columbus and led by the Mayor's Chief of Staff A. Michael Schwarzwalder.

“Michael's proven himself as a manager and an innovative thinker, and he will be an excellent partner in advancing the mission of SWACO and our Get Green Campaign,” said Mayor Michael B. Coleman. “Our mission is to grow local businesses, create jobs, improve recycling and encourage the development of new green commercial construction and parkland. Greening Columbus is making the most of 21st Century technology and practices and will help us move to the head of the national pack on environmental issues.”

Schwarzwalder will assume the new position in April, serving as the first Director of SWACO's “Environmental Stewardship Office.” The Office will coordinate SWACO and City initiatives on: 1) economic and job development of “green” businesses, 2) promoting regional cooperation on recycling and waste management services, 3) extending the life of the SWACO landfill, 4) engage regional residents through community outreach. This agreement will be for a period of two years, with the parties intending to move the positions to a newly created non-profit or community improvement corporation.

“We are 100% committed to working with the City to promote a healthier Columbus through green businesses and protecting the environment, and we are excited to have a high-profile, trusted, community leader like Mike Schwarzwalder agree to lead this initiative,” said Michael Long, SWACO Executive Director.

Schwarzwalder will advise SWACO and the Mayor on green policy issues and promote “Blue Bag” recycling initiative, encourage recycling efforts at City facilities, do community outreach and education efforts on the environment, and lobby to prevent other states from dumping trash in Ohio.

“In my career from the Ohio Senate to corporate management and City Hall, I've always been passionate about the environment and recycling,” said A. Michael Schwarzwalder. “We have research from other cities, and we know we can do a better job in Columbus, the job now is to take the ball forward and make a difference.”

Copies of the "Green Memo" outlining the specific goals and initiatives of the Get Green Campaign are available on-line at: www.columbus.gov <<http://www.columbus.gov>> by clicking through to Mayor Coleman's page.

Biography: Michael Schwarzwald

Michael Schwarzwald grew up in Columbus, attended North High School and Ohio University. He graduated with a BA in political science from The Ohio State University. Schwarzwald then traveled to Tanzania, East Africa to serve in the Peace Corps for two years as a middle school teacher. Upon his return he attended Law School at OSU, graduating with a JD in 1970. He practiced law in Columbus at the Legal Aid and Defender Society and with Campbell, Boyland, Schwarzwald and Sanford and successors until 1985. Also during that time, Schwarzwald was elected to two terms in the Ohio Senate, 1977 to 1985, and served as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee 1983-1985. He was an adjunct professor of law at Capital University teaching Legislation from 1981-1983.

Schwarzwald was hired as the Regional Manager of State Legislative Affairs for GTE Sprint in 1985 and served in a variety of management positions for Sprint, MCI and XO Communications for the next 16 years in Chicago and Washington DC. Upon his return to Columbus in September 2003, Schwarzwald was asked to join the Coleman administration as Chief of Staff, a position that he currently holds. He resides in Victorian Village and is the father of two grown daughters living in California and a 9-year-old son living in Washington, DC.